



State Representative Kevin Witkos

Dear Friend,

I hope you have enjoyed your summer as autumn is fast approaching. It continues to be an honor and privilege to serve as your State Representative for the 17th District in the House of Representatives.

This report briefly covers some of the topics debated/passed during the regular legislative session. I do provide a quarterly on-line newsletter if you're interested in a more in-depth analysis of some topics. Just contact my office and we will place your email address on the list.

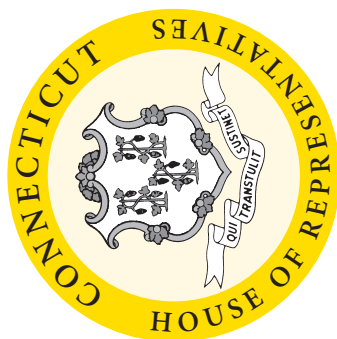
If you have any concerns, questions or comments regarding state issues please don't hesitate to call or write.

Very truly yours,



Rep. Witkos presents a citation to Ronald McDonald who turns 50 this year on behalf of the Ronald McDonald Charity Houses.

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State Representative KEVIN WITKOS Proudly Serving the 17th District Avon ★ Canton



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2005 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



State Representative KEVIN WITKOS Proudly Serving the 17th District Avon ★ Canton



Representative Witkos
in his Capitol office.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES 2005

The Budget

The Democratic majority offered and passed the biennial state budget which increases spending by 8.9%. I voted against this budget and the tax increases we are to endure. This budget spends \$650 million of last year's surplus and raises new taxes by \$738 million dollars. There were no spending reductions.

Campaign Finance

Both the House and Senate passed different versions of Campaign Finance bills. Governor Rell stated she would sign the House version into law if it reached her desk. The Senate (due to political posturing) refused to even discuss the House version.

State Funding

I continue my pursuit to equalize, on a greater scale, state monies that are distributed to municipalities for a variety of reasons (ECS, Town Aid Road, and PILOT, Etc). Currently Avon receives .02 cents for every dollar it sends to Hartford in state money. Canton receives .22 cents. Hartford receives \$8.37 for every dollar it sends to the State.



Motor Vehicles

The Governor's proposal to implement a \$1.3 billion dollar comprehensive transportation restructuring for the State was approved by the legislature this year. This money is aimed at improving state highways and interstates as well as upgrading public transportation(Avon mountain improvements are scheduled for 2007). The legislature banned the use of hand held cell phones while operating vehicles, prohibited the use of pocket bikes on all public roads and added nighttime restrictions for teenage drivers.

Eminent Domain

The United States Supreme Court ruled that Connecticut's eminent domain laws are constitutional but stressed that the State could amend them. It is clear that action should be taken as quickly as possible considering the sweep and impact of this court decision. Unfortunately, the Democratic majority defeated an amendment aimed at limiting eminent domain. I joined many of my colleagues in pressing for a special session of the legislature to address this matter and to preserve the private property rights of Connecticut residents.



Representative Witkos presents a citation to Lobsterfest
organizers for the Fest's 25th Anniversary.



Representative Witkos meets with students from Avon/Hartford during a
recent Capitol visit as part of their exchange program.

Seniors and Veterans

The legislature passed measures that provide discounted in-state tuition to military personnel stationed in Connecticut. We also provided a variety of additional benefits for members of the Connecticut National Guard. Money was allocated to implement the federal Medicare Part D prescription drug program, and the State's Commission on Aging was moved from the Department of Social Services to the legislative branch.

Identity Theft

Due to the increased incidence of identity theft, the legislature passed a bill allowing consumers to place a freeze on their credit report and requires a credit bureau to place the freeze within five days. The credit freeze prohibits a creditor from giving information to any third party without the creditor's permission.

Firefighters

A new law expands the number of flashing or revolving white light permits allowed for volunteer fire chiefs and their deputies and assistants from four to five per department. Volunteer Fire companies can receive compensation for participating in certain Homeland Security drills that exceed 24 consecutive hours. The law exempts 16 and 17 year old drivers' nighttime restrictions if responding to or from a fire call.

CONNECTICUT RESIDENTS WORK 123 DAYS
OUT OF THE YEAR JUST TO PAY THEIR TAXES

Future CT Burden

Connecticut

National Avg.

Alaska



May 3

Apr. 17

Apr. 2

Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May. Jun. Jul.

Representative Witkos
provides a legislative
wrap-up discussion with
local seniors at their
luncheon.

